

SENATE—Wednesday, May 12, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, You have told us that as a person thinks so is he or she. You have given us minds to think, evaluate, and make decisions. Today, we praise You for the gift of intellect and the ability to learn. We want to love You with our minds. Clear away any debilitating memories that haunt us, preventing us from thinking clearly about present challenges. Give us Your mind about issues. Free us from muddled, fuzzy, or negative thinking. Make us receptive to new insight from You communicated by others, even though they may represent a different point of view. We want to be hopeful thinkers who know that we have barely begun to realize Your truth.

Today, gracious Lord, we are grateful for the life and distinguished career of Adm. James Nance, and we grieve over his death. Thank you for his leadership as staff director of the Committee on Foreign Relations. Be with his family.

And now, Dear God, we commit this day to You. Inspire our minds with Your Spirit. Bless the Senators and those who advise them and those who assist them in carrying out the heavy responsibilities of their office. Here are our minds. We want our thinking to be a vital part of Your plan for our world today. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING
MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able chairman of the Judiciary Committee is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the juvenile justice legislation. Pending is the Leahy amendment with a 1-hour debate limitation. Therefore, Senators can expect the first vote of today's session at approximately 10:30 a.m. Following the disposition of the Leahy amendment, Senator BROWNBACK will be recognized to offer a code of conduct amendment with the time for a vote to be determined. It is hoped that significant progress can be made on this bill, and therefore Senators can expect votes throughout today's session of the Senate with the possibility of votes into the evening.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. AL-LARD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

**VIOLENT AND REPEAT JUVENILE
OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY
AND REHABILITATION ACT OF
1999**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 254, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 254) to reduce violent juvenile crime, promote accountability by rehabilitation of juvenile individuals, punish and deter violent gang crime, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Leahy Amendment No. 327, to promote effective law enforcement.

AMENDMENT NO. 327

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 1 hour for debate on the Leahy amendment No. 327 to be equally divided in the usual form.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may suggest the absence of a quorum without it being charged to either side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. President, I understand we are now on the Leahy amendment to S. 254.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, this amendment is intended to address the problem of youth violence with tough law enforcement initiatives at the Federal level, with assistance to State and local law enforcement, proven prevention programs for juvenile delinquency, and measures to keep guns out of the hands of children.

Many of the proposals in this amendment were part of a bill I introduced, along with Senator DASCHLE and other Democratic Members, last year in the Safe Schools, Safe Streets and Secure Borders Act of 1998. That was S. 2484. We have introduced it this year as S. 9.

These are carefully crafted proposals. They were not done as knee-jerk re-

sponses to the school shootings, or even the most bloody murders in Littleton. We talked with prosecutors and police officers and teachers and everybody else in putting these proposals together. The series of proposals in the amendment have been ready since last year, but this is our first opportunity to present them to the Senate for discussion and a vote. While these proposals predated the events at Columbine High School, it escapes nobody's notice that the events at the high school give them added urgency.

This amendment is part of the Democratic multipronged agenda for action that embraces tough and more aggressive law enforcement initiatives, plus those initiatives in our other amendments to help teachers, counselors, parents, and children with afterschool programs, with effective and proven school safety strategies and, of course, treatment programs for high-risk youth. It faces the reality that we live in a different world, not like when I was going to school, or when most of us in this Chamber went to school. It is a complex world and you do not attack the problems of it on just one front; you have to attack them on many.

We Democrats look forward to the Senate debating and taking action on proposals that can be enacted now and working over the long haul on additional structural remedies. No matter what legislation we pass this week, we also need long-term solutions to school violence. These solutions include getting smaller classrooms; smaller schools—not these schools that are cities in and of themselves where students don't even know each other and the teachers don't know them—helping parents spend more time supervising their children, realizing that is the bond that is often broken in today's society; and working constructively with the movie, television, and video game industries to adopt rating systems that parents can understand and use.

This law enforcement amendment is substantial and comprehensive. It has five separate parts. I will highlight a few of the important proposals in this amendment. It addresses some of the same subject matter areas as S. 254. I will highlight some of the differences in our approaches.

In the area of federalization, my amendment also proposes reforms in the Federal juvenile justice system. We do so without Federalizing run-of-the-mill juvenile offenses and ignoring the traditional prerogative of the States to handle the bulk of juvenile crime. Too often when we have talked about crime on the Senate floor in recent years, we